

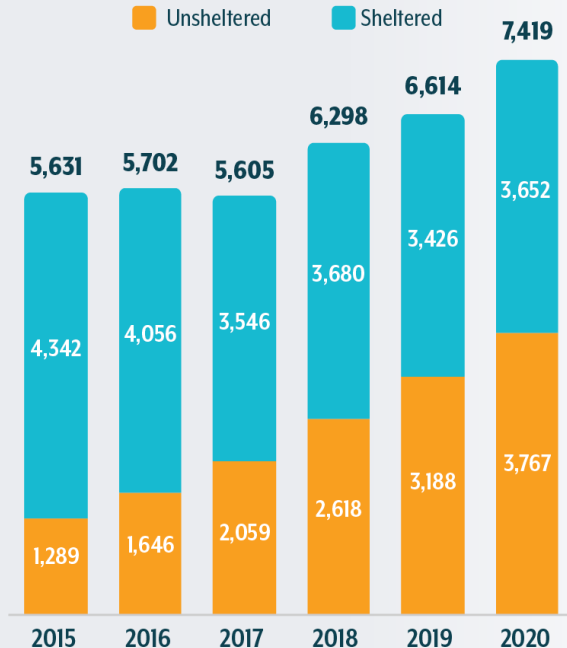
Mobilizing the Regional Response to Homelessness: Pathways Home

Overview
February 2022



Overall Point in Time (PIT) Count Rising for the Past 4 Years

Total PIT Count, 2015-2020



Source: Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care
PIT Count, 2015-2020

Growth Rate from 2019-2020

Total PIT Count

+12%

Unsheltered Count

+18%

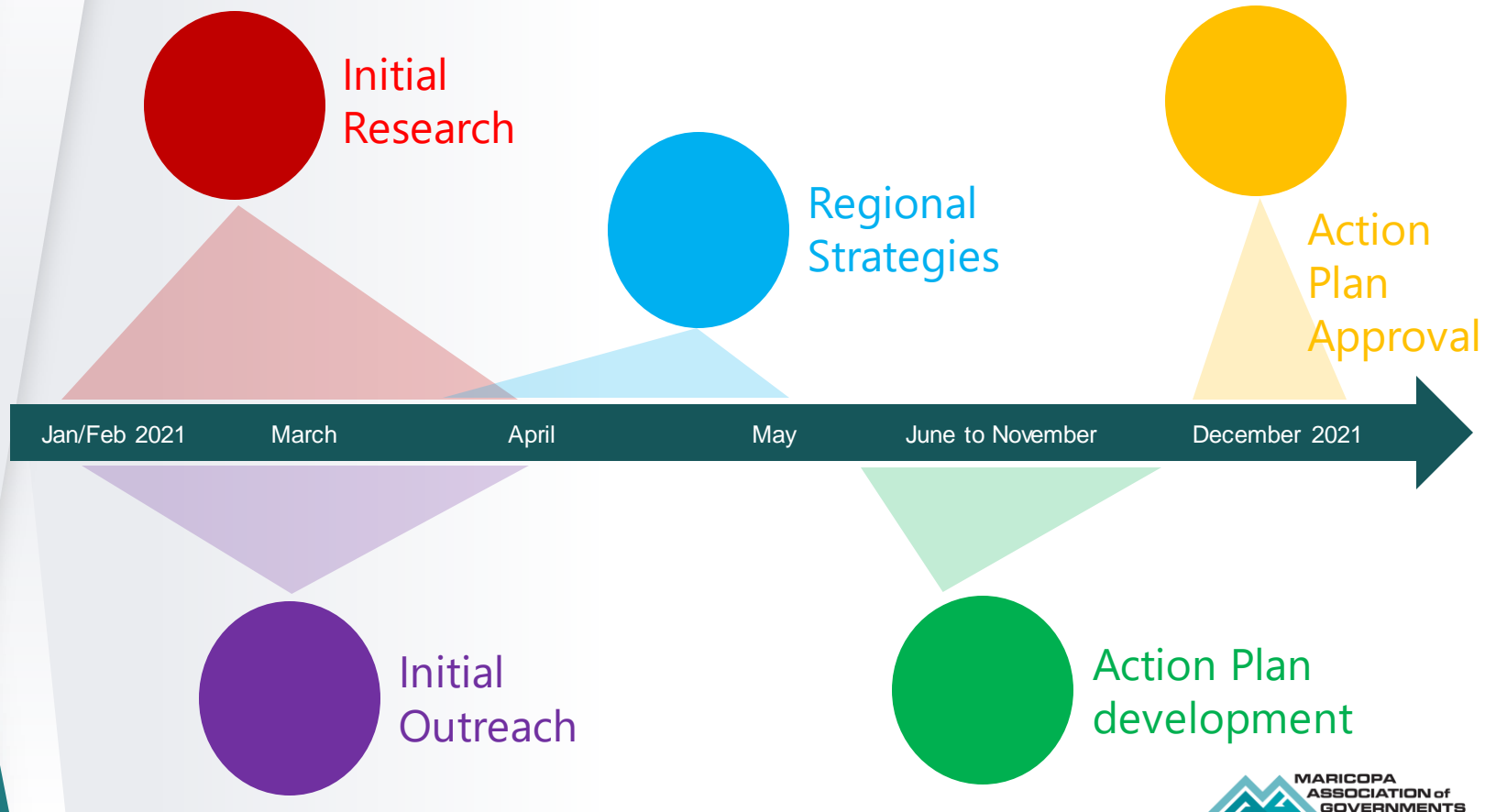
Sheltered Count

+7%

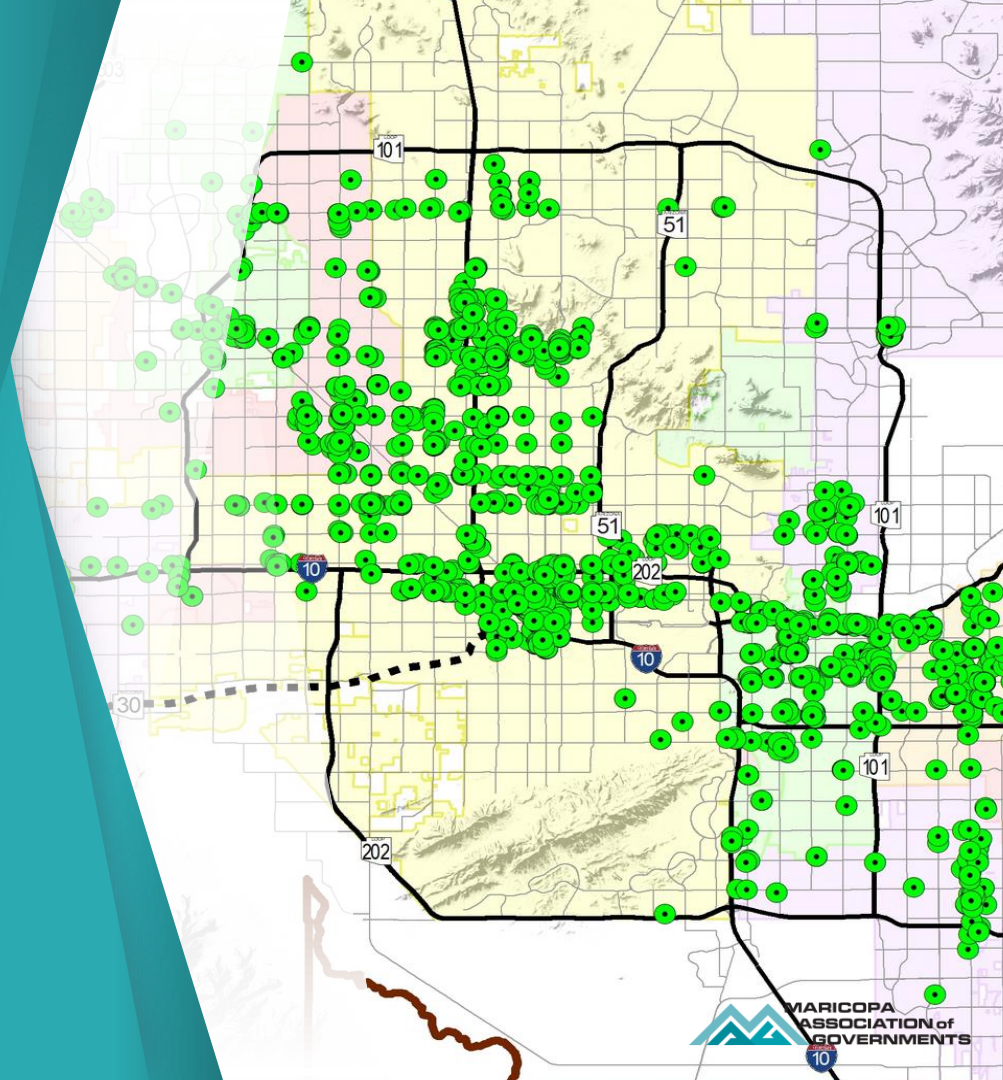
The unsheltered count increased at a **higher rate** than the sheltered and overall PIT Count.



Regional Homelessness Response Timeline



Regional Strategies



Strategy Portfolio Partners:

- 1,500 diverse participants in 10 forums and capstone event
- Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care and nonprofit providers.
- Regional Collaborative on Homelessness.
- Solari Crisis and Human Services.
- MAG member agencies, including the municipal Human Services and intergovernmental staff.
- Forum, survey, and strategy session participants; speakers; and planning teams.
- People with lived experience.
- MAG human services, RAD, and policy teams.
- Applied Economics.
- Arizona Housing Coalition.
- HomeBase.
- Corporation for Supportive Housing.
- Arizona Town Hall.
- Focus Strategies.

Outreach






- Hosted 10 **forums** and Capstone event with diverse stakeholders.
- Conducted **surveys** with law enforcement, first responders, and people with lived experience.
- Offered multiple **presentations**.

Research

- Created **local inventory** of strategies.
- Conducted **national best practice** review.
- Analyzed **funding options** and municipal expenditures.
- Developed **siting** considerations study.
- Developed **HANDUP** tool.

Strategies

- Identified a **range** of strategies in categories of Housing, Services, Temporary Housing, Coordination, and Diversion/Prevention.
- Prioritized **14 strategies** for regional implementation.
- **Adopted** strategies in May 2021.

Diversion/ Prevention		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and expand regional homelessness prevention efforts. • Coordinate and expand regional homelessness diversion efforts.
Housing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase affordable housing, particularly for extremely low income households. • Coordinate COVID-19 relief funds to support implementation of the strategies. • Create a regional system for landlord engagement. • Expand and coordinate housing flexible funding pool initiatives to support providers in meeting the unique needs of their clients.
Coordination		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include people with lived experience of homelessness, especially people of color, in decision-making roles throughout the homeless system of care. • Continue to examine data from homelessness and other systems to understand and address racial disparities. • Develop and sustain a diverse and inclusive workforce and organizations that are committed to antiracism. • Build and coordinate cross-sector relationships with other systems.
Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and enhance the coordinated entry system. • Expand and coordinate employment assistance and services available to people experiencing homelessness.
Temporary Housing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase bridge housing. • Strengthen the regional response to unsheltered homelessness and the system of local shelters.

Action Plan Development



Outreach: May to December 2021

- Regional Homelessness Coordination Team
 - Seven meetings from July to October
- Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care
 - Eight Board and Committee meetings
- MAG Management Committee and Regional Council updates
 - June, August, and October
- Meetings with local government leadership
 - 27 meetings completed, 1 meeting pending
- Various community partner meetings

1. Commit to work regionally to reduce homelessness.

2. Increase safe housing options.

3. Support diverse partnerships to address homelessness.



1. Commit to work regionally to reduce homelessness.

- Increase ongoing financial and/or in-kind resources from local and tribal governments, as well as partners.
- Improve access to data on homelessness (example: enhancing the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)).
- Develop a regional public education campaign to reduce stigma of homelessness and increase support for affordable housing.
- Track progress on the Regional Homelessness Action Plan.



2. Increase safe housing options.

- Add 770 units of temporary housing.
- Add 1,225 units of permanent housing (rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing).
- Increase access to and maintain existing rental units.
- Assess and enhance the Coordinated Entry System.
- Support eviction prevention by expanding and creating new diversion programs.



3. Support diverse partnerships to address homelessness.

- Increase regional support for homelessness interventions through the emergency response and criminal justice system.
- Increase access to local services, such as medical, behavioral health, and substance use treatment programs.
- Expand employment opportunities through public/private partnerships.
- Form interdepartmental teams.



Next Steps

Get involved:

Implement the action plan : Regional Homelessness Strategies

Donate through the Healthy Giving Council:
<https://www.givesmartaz.org/>

Volunteer through Hands on Phoenix: www.handsonphoenix.org

Support a range of housing options through the Arizona Housing Coalition at
www.azhousingcoalition.org



For More Information

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<https://azmag.gov/Programs/Homelessness>